

OVERALL ASSESSMENT BY PARTICIPANTS
Texas Birth Defects Conference 2000
January 21-22, Houston, Texas

Conference Evaluation

<i>Strongly Agree=5 Agree=4 Undecided=3 Disagree=2 Strongly Disagree=1</i>	
1. Objective one, to provide up-to-date information about the patterns and prevalence of birth defects in Texas, was met.	4.74
2. Objective two, to present recent research results regarding the causes and prevention of birth defects and suggestions for incorporating this information into improvements in practice, was met	4.71
3. Objective three, to present an overview of specific programs, initiatives, and tools to enhance the care and treatment of children with birth defects and their families, was met.	4.63
• 4. Objective four, to bring together and foster networking among people who have a professional or personal interest in birth defects, was met	4.7
Comments	

- It is good that this conference focused on many types of birth defects and not only one! Then we learn more and have a greater database of educators and who to teach regarding various defects.
- I think #4 was great. This was an excellent chance to meet others who work in this area. I hope this becomes an annual (or every other year) meeting!
- All speakers very knowledgeable & informative. Some of them has too much statistics.
- Many of the lectures stopped short of discussing clinical application--would have been helpful.
- The plenary session should have been given add'l. time. Everything seemed to have been a rush--esp. the speaker. The content of the info to be covered actually requires more than 30 minutes.
- All speakers very informative, never boring--I learned a lot and look forward to future updates
- Planners did an excellent job in arranging the sequence of presentations.
- Superb conference per variety of topics and expertise of speakers. No eval form for Dr Carlos Alvarez-Lucas. Also excellent presentation. Appreciated the exhibitors being available throughout the day; noon a little crowded on Friday.
- Great conf.--Hope you offer another.
- More suggestions to implement strategies. Lots of data, but much of it isn't applicable.
- Exhibits--very helpful. It appeared as several sessions overlapped.
- I feel there was too much review of literature. Need more tools to work with families and children. I appreciate that speakers, for the most part, explained terms in layman's language. Would like to have overheads available in a hard copy.
- commendable work
- There should be more people brought in who deal with people & families w/birth defects. Nurses, doctors, genetic counselors who are more directly associated w/children & families coping w/birth defects. Also dieticians should be included in presentations who can explain foods rich in folic acids & can help tell how many & serving size of foods rich in folic acid.
- It is good that this conference focused on many types of birth defects and not only one! Then we learn more and have a greater database of educators and who to teach regarding various defects.

- need to address ECI some well represented in exhibits but not in presentations
- A superb job done by TBDMD--constant challenge is to "make things better"--TBDMD always does just that.
- Excellent conference! I would've like more discussion about law and have an ultrasound tech discuss anomalies
- Publish a list of speakers & participants/addresses & email/publish "clearinghouse" info for agencies, clinics, groups interested in these topics to aid referral/networking. Handouts can be improved--
- more time for each presenter & extended conference
- Would have liked more information on East Texas but I am sure you will have it next time since study began last year
- There was not enough exhibit time or no time at all to change tracts. A 5 minutes recess between speaker could have worked great.
- Wonderful! Powerful & dynamic great learning experience
- More awareness of conference to larger groups! Individuals would be good for networking. This was a good beginning. Great choices of speakers.
- Great information!
- Excellent conference--sometime difficult to choose between concurrent sessions
- The southeastern portion of the state was not represented.

Facilities/Arrangements

<i>Strongly Agree=5 Agree=4 Undecided=3 Disagree=2</i>	
<i>Strongly Disagree=1</i>	
1. Appropriate day of the week	4.52
2. Appropriate time of the day	4.58
3. Meeting room and facilities were satisfactory	4.53
4. Breaks and refreshments were satisfactory	4.72
5. Parking was sufficient	4.61
6. Registration procedure fee was satisfactory	4.50
Comments/Suggestions	

Comments

- As a presenter I appreciated not having to pay the registration fee.
- Food & snack is wonderful. Would be nice if table is provided to write on (take notes).
- Cheap at the price--very worthwhile and close to home. Enjoyed it.
- Plenary rooms were comfortable--the noise level w/the door slamming every 30 secs to 1 min was annoying.
- Saturday--not a good day! Supervisor not willing to give appropriate amount of comp hours. Participant has no control with flight schedules.
- Provide tables at each session; replenish water
- Maybe starting even 30 minutes later would have been better--get slide projector interference fixed.
- Very convenient facility easy to get to from the interstate!
- Why should we pay (parking)!
- Parking should be included in registration fee.
- room a little cool
- I prefer all weekend conferences because I had to take a vacation day to come on Friday. 8:30 or 9 am would have been a better time to start, but 8 am is OK. Facilitators/conference coordinators were very well prepared! Great job!
- A/V support was less than "perfect"
- The audiovisual problems were a distraction for a couple of speakers
- Of course, problem with slide projectors was distracting & took away from presentations

- Actually inexpensive in every way--especially how useful & high quality the meeting was!
- larger room for exhibitors; more exhibitors would be helpful
- Thurs/Fri would have been better
- Thursday & Friday
- Parking--should have been discounted or halved b/c of the fact business was brought to this hotel.
- Great organization of meeting.
- Suggestions: 1) ask speakers to provide Xerox of slides & include in conference packet. 2) Provide email addresses & web addresses for speakers & organizations on abstract.
- Seating arrangements of Friday breakouts were awkward in arrangement (only one long row of seats/it got better when corridor was put in middle of room. Fee was a bit high.
- Not sure I like Saturday section
- Exhibits should have been in the hall where people mingled & where food/drinks were
- Sat-Sun are also good days
- Would prefer 9am start & all day Saturday. Conference facilities, refreshments & lunch were outstanding
- Would like to have full day Sat & start at 9 am!
- A little too cool. Should validate parking.

Number of participants who rated this conference:

43 Excellent 29 Good 3 Average 0 Fair 0 Poor

Number of participants responding:

I would recommend this conference to my co-workers. Yes 73 No 2

I would attend this conference in the future. Yes 73 No 2

Did the brochure give an accurate description of the workshop content and contain the essential information needed for registration and attendance?

74 Yes 1 No

If no, please explain:

- It (the brochure) and conference theme seemed to indicate the conference would be geared toward helping families work with professionals when a birth defect is already diagnosed. The conference actually focused on literature and what professionals already know.
- Prepublication of all CE credits being sought might attract other professional elements
- As previously mentioned, CEUs for dieticians was not indicated

Topic suggestions for future workshops:

- Great that ya'll included so many different birth defects. A stated earlier, some (several) speakers were too basic & I didn't really learn anything, but from reading the brochure I thought I would learn more. However, I know it's sometimes hard to find the exact mid-point.
- I really enjoy learning about any new research regarding etiology & prevention of birth defects, especially studies going on in Texas.
- It would not have been harmful to overview some of the same information less info for less time 30 mins worth of info for 30 mins and not 5 hr worth of info in 30 mins. Rooms may have been too close together since slides have difficulty working. Overall, the conference

held a lot of beneficial and great info--however, the conference seemed to try and cram too much info 30 min lectures. In other words, the information moved too fast. Suggestion: If a presenter has to move so rapidly--the info could be given out on handouts. (The info on slides)

- Realizing that this is a state BD and not a national BD conf. It would be interesting to see how Texas ranks with the rest of the country according to BDs and what other states have been in place to prevention.
- Make information more applicable.
- The tracks were wonderful--but it's all too much at one time. It would be nice to hear it all. Thanks for a wonderful conference.
- Include presentation from the education and direct service to clients & communities angles.
- Genetic aspects of inherited birth defects.
- I was expecting and hoping for less literature review and statistics and more strategies and networking. As someone working with an Ed program, this workshop addressed many topics inappropriate for me--regarding prenatal statistics.
- Assisting CBOs in developing Social Marketing Campaign at the local level. Lobbying efforts to impact health care policy funding at regional levels. CHIP & Birth Defects: what does this mean for the future.
- Information about Early Childhood Intervention.
- Great that ya'll included so many different birth defects. A stated earlier, some (several) speakers were too basic & I didn't really learn anything, but from reading the brochure I thought I would learn more. However, I know it's sometimes hard to find the exact mid-point.
- More prevention projects to prevent birth defects
- variety of topics is valuable!
- some ECI information. Updated info on whole state for birth defects
- Legislators or aids on how to get their attention/involvement
- More prevention focused sessions. More health promotion
- Excellent conference! I would've like more discussion about law and have an ultrasound tech discuss anomalies
- Genetics of congenital defects
- Would have been helpful to have more info on new speakers--
- Overview of genetic defects
- Meeting with researchers and surveillance specialists who are out collecting data to have the researchers identify what type of additional information is needed for more accurately deciphering data. Maybe the researchers can explain the importance of gathering more detailed info & stress importance of divisions not having discrepancies of data collection & data entry. intra- as well as inter-regional.
- detailed brain malformation--as the heart was done this year
- 5) More on environmental parameters--toxins/geographic considerations 4) more info on what has been done & data that has been done & data that has been collected and less on what is ongoing & has no data to report, yet.
- Topics were good, just need to have more handout for some of the talks, would be helpful since many are diagrams.
- Some sessions on registry management, case ascertainment problems & issues, audit procedures, completeness & accuracy, etc.
- Give list & address/email of speakers

Additional comments/concerns.

- Amy & Mark--Great job. Thank you for all the effort.
- Great job! It's hard to hold a conference that meets the needs of so many different health care providers & you did that! I am sorry I was not able to attend the entire conference. As a presenter I appreciated the email reminders and updates from Amy! I also really appreciate the opportunity to earn CEUs. If this becomes an annual meeting, one day should probably

- be enough to cover everything (although longer meetings allow more networking!)
- More focus on psychosocial factors i.e. psychological effects, intervention, case examples, psychotherapy, etc... Since I am new to this field of work, it would have been extremely helpful for me to have had "basic" information in the beginning regarding birth defects--photos with definitions would be very helpful. Possibly review of some of the medical terms.
 - Terrific conference however I'm not sure it was well publicized. I only found out about it searching the TDH website. Did mailings go out to all the U-Texas System schools of medicine & nursing? This is the kind of info needed to be included in the education of future physicians & nurses esp. those preparing to work in the health arena!
 - My handouts weren't ready for my presentation but Amy quickly copied them on site--thanks!
 - Promote conference more to hospitals and managed care, pharmaceutical companies (form more alliances)
 - changing speakers so often made statistics easier to sit through! Thank you!
 - Challenge is how to get this information "outside" the TBDMD family. Legislators, professional organizations (TMA/THA/TNA and national counterparts) need this information to assist us in furthering our cause. A special thanks to the support group inclusion--a valuable (?) from science to people.. A "side" conversation with Jannine Cody provided what I think is a valuable perspective. She related that she sees "us" as an island away from and in need of transport or connection with the mainland. Similar to my thoughts that these stories need to be told to and appreciated by those important to us outside our own group (mainland). For what it's worth!
 - I believe that page numbering on each page in the conference box would be helpful!
 - I have attended several state agency conferences over the last (?) years. This has been the most professional--educational--and overall best conference that I have attended.